

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 03069 230938Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 COME-00 AID-05 PER-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PPT-01 PRS-01 NSC-05 SS-15
USIA-06 /056 W
-----014184 230946Z /14
P 230540Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7979

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 3069

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJ: TRAVEL TO AND WITHIN SRI LANKA

REF: STATE 199776

1. KANDY PERAHERA HAS NOT BEEN CANCELLED, BUT HAS ACTUALLY TAKEN PLACE EACH NIGHT SO FAR, INCLUDING DURING THE WEEKEND CURFEW, WHEN IT WAS, HOWEVER, FOR NIGHT OR TWO REDUCED TO PROCESSION WITHIN TEMPLE PRECINCTS INVOLVING ABOUT FIFTEEN ELEPHANTS. LOCAL PRESS AUGUST 23 ANNOUNCED EXPANDED ROUTE FOR TONIGHT'S PERAHERA AND CONTINUES TO ADVERTISE SPECIAL TRAINS TO KANDY FOR LATER DAYS OF THE EVENT, WHICH CLIMAXES IN FINAL NIGHT ON AUGUST 29 AND DAY PERAHERA ON AUGUST 30.

2. EMBASSY CANNOT OF COURSE PREDICT EXACT SECURITY SITUATION FOR NEXT FEW DAYS, AS THERE IS A NATURAL ELEMENT OF UNCERTAINTY INVOLVED. AUGUST 22 SAW NEW OUTBREAKS IN TRINCOMALEE (WHICH WAS PUT UNDER 36-HOUR CURFEW TO END MORNING OF AUGUST 24), MATARA, BATTICALOA AND KATARAGAMA. WE WILL HAVE FULLER REPORT LATER TODAY.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN NO ANNOUNCED RESTRICTIONS ON INTERNAL
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TRAVEL BUT THERE ARE NO NIGHT TRAINS, AND ON CERTAIN ROUTES, I.E., TOWARD NORTH, NONE IN DAYTIME EITHER. SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, TOURIST BUSES AND CARS HAVE MOVED FREELY, SOMETIMES UNDER SECURITY FORCE ESCORT. UNDERSTANDABLY, OUR OWN PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN STAYING PUT IN COLOMBO. THERE IS NO INTER-CITY TRAVEL DURING ACTUAL CURFEW PERIODS, AND IT SEEMS NOT UNLIKELY THAT ISLAND-WIDE NIGHTTIME CURFEWS MAY CONTINUE

FOR A FEW MORE DAYS.
WRIGGINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: TRAVEL CONTROLS, CURFEW
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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